

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 (cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A process for storing a particulate free-flowing water-absorbent resin, which comprises a step of storing a particulate water-absorbent resin in a storage apparatus where said particulate water-absorbent resin is obtained by pulverizing a dry water-absorbent resin product,

with the process for storing being characterized by all of the steps of:

(1) heating at least one portion of a surface of said storage apparatus making contact with the particulate water-absorbent resin, where said storage apparatus is heated from the outside,

(2) maintaining the temperature of at least one portion of said surface of a storage apparatus making contact with the particulate water-absorbent resin where said surface is at a temperature of 30 to 150 °C, and

(3) maintaining the temperature of at least one portion of a surface of said storage apparatus making contact with the particulate water-absorbent resin where said surface is at a temperature above a temperature that is lower than a temperature of the particulate water-absorbent resin by 20 °C,

when storing the particulate water-absorbent resin.

8. (Original) A process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin according to claim 7, wherein the particulate water-absorbent resin is a surface-crosslinked particulate water-absorbent resin.

9. (Original) A process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin according to claim 8, wherein the surface-crosslinked particulate water-absorbent resin contains at least a polyhydric alcohol.

10. (Previously presented) A process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin according to claim 8, wherein an absorption capacity of the surface-crosslinked particulate water-absorbent resin under a load is not less than 18 g/g.

11. (Original) A process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin according to claim 7, wherein the particulate water-absorbent resin is a crosslinked partially-neutralized polycarboxylic acid salt.

12. (Original) A process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin according to claim 7, wherein the dry water-absorbent resin product is a dry product obtained by drying at 160 to 250 °C.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin according to claim 7, wherein the particulate free-flowing water-absorbent resin has a water content of 3% to 15%.

17. (Currently amended) A process for storing a particulate water-absorbent resin according to claim [[1]] 7, wherein said particulate free-flowing water-absorbent resin has a particle diameter of not greater than 1000 μm .